

**MINUTES OF
FAUQUIER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 25, 2013**

7:00 P.M.

*2nd Floor Conference Room – Warren Green Building
10 Hotel Street
Warrenton, VA 20186*

Members Present: Peter S. Eltringham, Chairman; Ed Moore, Vice Chairman; R. Holder Trumbo, Jr; Matthew Sheedy; John Green; Mark Nesbit; and Jeffrey Walker

Members Absent: Adrienne Garreau and Tony Tedeschi

Guests Present: Sergeant Eddie Wines, Fauquier County Sheriff's Department; First Sergeant Andy Marshall, Fauquier County Sheriff's Department; and First Sergeant Jeffery Pearson, Virginia State Police

Staff Present: Susan Eddy and Meredith Meixner

1. Approval of July 31, 2013 Committee Meeting Minutes

ACTION: On motion made by John Green and seconded by Matthew Sheedy, it was moved to approve the July 31, 2013 Committee Meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Ongoing Business

- **Sillamon Road**

Mrs. Eddy reviewed the request for signage on Sillamon Road.

Mr. Nesbit stated VDOT will install curve warning signs with 30 mph speed advisory plaques on both approaches in advance of the sharp curve near Ms. Blackwell's tree farm. Mr. Nesbit further stated that this section of Sillamon Road is part of the Adopt-a-Highway program and the sponsor is required to pick up litter four times a year. VDOT does not recommend "No Littering" signs at this time.

Ms. Blackwell commented that she was very pleased with the decision.

Mr. Eltringham thanked Mr. Nesbit.

- **Kelly Road/Grays Mill Road**

Mrs. Eddy reviewed the committee's request for VDOT to reconsider whether the language found in the *Code of Virginia* §46.2-874 could be used in lieu of a traffic engineering study for residential streets.

Mr. Nesbit clarified that VDOT does not consider Kelly Road and Grays Mill Road to be subdivision streets since they also carry thru traffic. Mr. Nesbit stated that the referenced code section is used by VDOT for subdivision streets only and advised that the Regional Traffic Engineer, Teresa Gardner, is on a committee working to provide language that will clarify when the code should be applied. Mr. Nesbit further advised that although he does have a better understanding of the intent for the service districts, VDOT is still required to follow the process of establishing speed limits on state roads.

Mr. Eltringham indicated this is law vs. interpretation and that the County's policies on service districts should be taken into consideration.

Mr. Moore agreed with Mr. Eltringham and added that this is a subdivision street.

Mr. Eltringham indicated he would like to meet with Ms. Gardner to engage the committee process in evaluating the new language and Mr. Nesbit agreed to set up a meeting.

Mrs. Eddy stated that VDOT encourages inter-connective roads and the County is being penalized for doing just that.

Mr. Eltringham requested that VDOT take a look at both roads for possible advisory signs. Mr. Nesbit agreed to evaluate for additional advisory signage.

- **Greenwich Road**

Mrs. Eddy reviewed the request for advanced warning signs and speed reduction.

Mr. Nesbit stated that VDOT determined the speed limit should remain at 45 mph and no additional signage is recommended based on the crash records. Mr. Nesbit added that the 85th percentile speed was at 58 mph, therefore VDOT recommends increased speed enforcement.

Mr. Eltringham asked if VDOT would consider moving the current 35 mph advisory sign past Kettle Run. Mr. Nesbit agreed to place the sign just south of Kettle Run creek.

Mr. Moore remarked that the 85th percentile at 58 mph was excessive speeding and contended that if the speed limit was reduced to 35 mph that maybe people would drive 45 mph. Mr. Moore stated that this road was paved so long ago, it was not engineered for 45 mph.

Mr. Eltringham asked if the law enforcement officers had anything to add to the discussion. First Sergeant Marshall replied that he had noted VDOT's findings for their

enforcement efforts. First Sergeant Pearson added that high visibility of law enforcement is safer on this road than running radar.

- **Atoka Road**

Mrs. Eddy reviewed the request to pull accident data from the Sheriff's Office and VDOT. Mrs. Eddy stated the Sheriff's Office reported two accidents in the past three years and the recent fatality would be in the state police records.

First Sergeant Pearson clarified that the fatality was the motorcycle accident where the car was at fault and indicated it would show in the DMV database.

First Sergeant Marshall explained that the Sheriff's Office has dispatch and report records available and Mrs. Eddy was given the report records for this road. Mrs. Eddy replied that she had asked for all accident data and was unaware there was a difference.

First Sergeant Pearson noted that the state database will contain reports if there is an injury or \$1500 of damage or more and a new electronic reporting system called TREDs will be implemented soon.

Mr. Nesbit stated that he did not have enough information to formulate a response yet and will provide it once he has the complete picture.

Ms. Anderson expressed her concerns for the excessive speeding and said the church uses cones during services to slow traffic down.

Mr. Trumbo added that this is the only road in the village of Rectortown that is posted at 45 mph and other roads have lower speed limits.

Mr. Eltringham mentioned the historic significance of the village.

Mr. Nesbit agreed to report back to the committee within 60 days.

- **Route 29 and O'Keefe**

Mr. Green distributed a photo of the intersection and indicated that the accident data is incomplete and does not reflect the three fatalities. Mr. Green stated that the visibility looking northbound, as seen in the photo, has signs and telephone poles in the way. Mr. Green further stated that depending on the vehicle you drive, there are different views based on the height.

Mr. Moore asked if the photo was taken at the stop bar.

Mr. Green clarified that there is no stop bar and the view also changes depending on where you stop. Mr. Green stated that he wants the signs and telephone poles moved and

noted that VDOT is improving the flow of traffic with the new flyover which in turn removes the pulsing that helps drivers proceed thru this intersection.

Mr. Moore expressed concern that the short deceleration lane to turn on to O'Keefe is dangerous.

Mr. Eltringham summarized that the main issues are poles, signs and the turn lane and asked VDOT what can be addressed.

Mr. Nesbit responded that VDOT can look into shifting their signs and would need to review the accident data.

Mr. Moore suggested an intersection warning sign on Route 29 headed southbound approaching O'Keefe Road.

Mr. Eltringham requested that VDOT also look into lengthening the deceleration lane with the consideration that Botha Road feeds into the intersection. Mr. Nesbit agreed. Mr. Eltringham further requested that staff research the process of having utility poles moved.

3. *Fincham Court*

Mrs. Eddy reviewed Ms. Umbel's request for signage indicating a dead end road and children at play, and to reduce the speed limit because many vehicles think this road connects to other subdivisions.

Mr. Moore agreed that there needs to be a sign informing drivers that the road ends and asked what the speed limit is.

Mr. Nesbit agreed to have signs installed and explained that a dead end sign is used for short roads and no outlet signs are used for a subdivision with one entrance.

First Sergeant Marshall noted the road is not posted for speed.

ACTION: VDOT will install signage indicating the road ends.

4. *Leeds Manor Road*

Mrs. Eddy reviewed Ms. Judkins request for the addition of stop signs on Leeds Manor Road where it intersects with Crest Hill Road making it a four way stop.

Mr. Trumbo stated that the new fence installed at the intersection is disrupting the site distance.

Mr. Sheedy suggested trimming the foliage and replacing the bent stop sign at Crest Hill Road heading south.

Mr. Nesbit indicated that a request for stop signs requires VDOT to perform a traffic study.

Mr. Trumbo suggested that VDOT review the intersections of Rt. 688/635 and Rt. 688/732 because of their similar characteristics before performing a traffic study.

Mr. Eltringham requested that VDOT also pull the studies from those two intersections to review at the next meeting.

Mr. Nesbit agreed to pull studies related to these three intersections and review the average daily trips (ADT) of the side streets.

ACTION: VDOT will research traffic studies related to three intersections; Rt. 688/647, Rt. 688/635, and Rt. 688/732; review the average daily trips (ADT) of the side streets; and report back to the committee at the next meeting.

5. *Scenic Byway Designation for Hopewell Road*

Mrs. Eddy reviewed the request and the process for designating a road as a Virginia Byway.

Ms. Susann Graham asked for support from the Transportation Committee and discussed the documentation provided.

Mr. Eltringham noted that most of the land is in conservation easements which should strengthen the request.

Mrs. Eddy stated that if the committee is in support, then staff will prepare a resolution for the Board of Supervisors' consent agenda.

ACTION: On motion made by Matthew Sheedy and seconded by Ed Moore, it was moved to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that they adopt a resolution in support of designating Hopewell Road as a Scenic Byway. The motion carried unanimously with Holder Trumbo abstaining.

6. *Other Items*

Mrs. Eddy agreed to give an update on the Opal Service District Comprehensive Plan Amendment at the next meeting.

Mr. Eltringham noted that there was a New Baltimore public workshop last weekend and the draft New Baltimore Service District Comprehensive Plan is moving forward.

Mr. Eltringham asked VDOT what the status is for the Rt. 15/17/29 intersection. Mr. Nesbit replied that the design consultant will be chosen soon.

Mr. Eltringham requested that VDOT take an informal look at an all way stop at Broad Run Church (Rt. 600) and Shephardstown Road (Rt. 793).

Mr. Green voiced his concern for a citizen making a FOIA request regarding his April 21, 2013 article listed in local papers titled, "To Roundabout or Not". Mr. Green stated that Fauquier Now added the line, "The writer represents Lee District on the Fauquier County Transportation Committee." Mr. Green explained that he told the citizen he wrote that article as a private citizen and spoke with the County Attorney who advised him that volunteer committee members are subject to FOIA requests and there is a \$2000 penalty if you do not provide the requested documents. Mr. Green expressed his appreciation for his time on the committee, and then stated he feels it is time for him to resign as he would like the freedom to openly speak out on issues.

After discussion, Mr. Eltringham persuaded Mr. Green to first speak with Lee District, Board of Supervisor member, Chester Stribling before submitting his resignation.

7. *Citizens' Time*

Mr. Jonathan Whichard stated that his point this evening is to correct Mr. Green's article and he is not here with any contentiousness to any member of this committee.

Mr. Eltringham informed him that this committee does not comment on editorial newspaper articles.

Mr. Whichard replied that Mr. Green's statements in his roundabout article were factually incorrect and should not have been stated by a member of the Transportation Committee who represents the citizens of Fauquier County.

Mr. Eltringham clarified that the Transportation Committee is an advisory committee to the Board of Supervisors who nominate and appoint Transportation Committee members in a formal process.

Mr. Whichard responded that these incorrect statements by a representative of the Transportation Committee lead citizens astray.

Mr. Trumbo stated that citizens with concerns of committee members can address the Board of Supervisors at their meeting during citizens' time or meet with their board member.

Mr. Whichard concluded that roundabouts have been proven safe and he believes in facts and studies.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, October 31, 2013.**